

*taipehensis* can hop over the surface of the water. The other interesting point is that this appears to be the first published record of *R. taipehensis* in India, and represents the western limit of its known distribution.

I would like to express my thanks to Dr. Malcolm A. Smith and Mr. J. C. Battersby, both of the British Museum (Natural History), for their kindly advice and assistance.

c/o MINISTRY OF SUPPLY,  
TROPICAL TESTING ESTABLISHMENT,  
PORT HARCOURT, NIGERIA,  
WEST AFRICA.  
July 10, 1951.

J. D. ROMER,  
M.I.Biol., F.Z.S.

### 17. HILSA CATCHES ON THE KODINAR (KATHIAWAR) COAST

In the last issue of the *Journal* (Vol. 49, pp. 614-623), Dr. C. V. Kulkarni in his paper on the Hilsa Fisheries in the Narbada River, has remarked that 'Chaksi' is the local name of *Hilsa ilisha* and the name of *H. toli* is 'Palwa' on the Kodinar Coast. He also suggested that the export figures of *H. ilisha* given in my paper on the Marine Fisheries of Kodinar (*J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 48, pp. 47-61) relate to *H. toli* and those of *H. toli* to *H. ilisha*.

I had the opportunity of corresponding with Dr. Kulkarni on this matter and he very kindly sent me a note explaining his comments. From his note and the paper referred to above, it has been found that his comments are based on the following:

(1) His enquiries from the fish merchants exporting fish to Bombay showed that the fish known as 'Palwa' in Madhwa is called 'Bhing' in Bombay, where the term is used for *H. toli* only.

(2) Palwa specimens obtained from Madhwa were identified by him as *H. toli*. This was also personally verified by him.

(3) Dr. Moses in his paper entitled 'A Statistical Account of the Fish Supply of Baroda City' (*Bull. Dep. Fish. Baroda*, 3) has mentioned Palwa as the local name of *H. toli* in Baroda (not Kodinar).

(4) Inspection of parcels arriving in Bombay from Madhwa etc. after the monsoons has shown that *H. toli* is more numerous than *H. ilisha*, while in the statistics presented by me *H. ilisha* is shown as more numerous.

Dr. Moses in his Check List of the Fishes of Baroda State (*Ann. Rep. Dep. Fish. Baroda*, 1937-38), gives Palwa as the local name of both *H. ilisha* and *H. toli*. In Dr. Kulkarni's paper also mention is made of the fact that the vernacular names are often interchanged. In the ports of Kodinar fishermen from different parts of Gujerat camp for fishing during the fishing seasons, and it is likely that the vernacular names used by the fishermen also vary. My information is based on personal enquiries made from fishermen and Customs staff of the area. The fish called by them as Palwa was identified by me as *H. ilisha*. Specimens of Palwa were sent to Dr. K. K. Nair who was working on Hilsa and he also identified them as *H. ilisha*. My

enquiries from the local Customs staff indicated that *H. ilisha* is considered as Palwa in their records. In view of this and the observations of Dr. Kulkarni, it would appear that, as in certain other centres, there is some confusion in the use of the vernacular names of these fishes in the Kodinar ports also. So, it may not be possible to obtain the correct export data of these fishes from Kodinar by merely interchanging the figures as suggested by Dr. Kulkarni.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,  
INDIAN MUSEUM, CALCUTTA,  
August 30, 1951.

T. V. R. PILLAY

#### 18. A NOTE ON THE EGGS AND THE FIRST STAGE LARVA OF *HIPPOLYSMATA VITTATA* STIMPSON<sup>1</sup>

The brightly coloured shrimp, *Hippolysmata vittata* Stimpson was frequently seen among the fouling organisms of Pearl Oyster cages at Krusadai. Most of those obtained in the months from July to October were berried and in each individual specimen examined there were between 400-500 eggs. Eggs showed four different stages of development; and more than one stage was noticed on one individual.

*Stage I.*—Perhaps the earliest stage in development; the eggs had a rounded shape with a diameter of 0.391 mm.

*Stage II.*—Eggs had become ovoid and the longest diameter was 0.529 mm.

*Stage III.*—Slightly more advanced than the previous stage. Eggs, though oval, were bigger (0.690 mm.). The bent body of the embryo could be distinctly seen within the egg membrane.

*Stage IV.*—The embryo in the process of straightening out; it measured about 0.690 mm., the length of the entire egg being 0.920 mm.

#### First stage larva:

Some of the berried individuals were left in an aquarium for observation. The larvae hatched out in the course of the day and the parent was observed to have undergone a moult.

#### Description of larva:

The length of the larvae varied between 1.9 and 2.0 mm. The eyes are sessile and the carapace has a slender rostrum reaching beyond the antennular peduncle. The abdomen has 5 segments with a pair of spines at the posterior margin of segment 5. The triangular telson has 14 spines on its margin.

*Antennule:* Peduncle is unsegmented; outer flagellum with a short plumose seta and 4 aesthetes. Inner flagellum absent, a short plumose seta arising in its place.

*Antenna:* Flagellum is small and carries a long plumose seta. Scale with 4 segments and carries 10 setae on the inner margin and tip; and 2 setae on the outer margin.

---

<sup>1</sup> Published with the kind permission of the Director of Fisheries, Madras.